

## Foreword

Minnesota farmers are among the world's best producers of corn, soybeans, and other commodities. However, our 5 million people consume much less than our farmers grow.

As a result, a lot of our farm production must be sold to consumers in other states and countries. Each year, we export a third of our corn crop, half of our soybean crop, and a third of our wheat crop. Agricultural exports play a major role in determining the price each farmer gets for his or her crops.

Developing new markets requires that we have timely and accurate information about the supplies of agricultural commodities. This is where we rely on farmers and agribusinesses to provide the facts. Markets run on information, and where there is a lack of accurate data, they substitute speculation.

I want to say "thank you" to all the farmers and agribusinesses who made this *2002 Minnesota Agricultural Statistics* book possible by their voluntary cooperation on surveys conducted by the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service.

*Gene Hugoson, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture*



We are pleased to feature Minnesota's turkey industry on the cover of this year's book. In 2000, Minnesota took over first place among states in turkey production and held that position in 2001 with 44 million turkeys raised.

**The 2002 Census of Agriculture is soon approaching.** Census forms will be mailed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in early December 2002 to all farmers and ranchers in the U.S. and are due back by February 3, 2003. Participation by all producers in the Census of Agriculture will ensure all operations, large and small, are properly counted and represented.

We hope this book is helpful to you. If you need more information, e-mail us at **nass-mn@nass.usda.gov** or call us at **1-800-453-7502**. Also, visit our web site at **www.nass.usda.gov/mn/**.

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